

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PL UR

SUBJ: POLISH PRESS COVERAGE OF THE SECRETARY'S MOSCOW VISIT

1. SUMMARY: THE POLISH PRESS HAS COMBINED SPECIFIC CRITICISM OF OUR POSITION DURING SECRETARY VANCE'S RECENT VISIT TO MOSCOW WITH GENERAL EXPRESSIONS OF OPTIMISM ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR A FUTURE SOVIET-US AGREEMENT ON ARMS LIMITATION. HEAVY USE OF MATERIALS FROM TASS WAS AUGMENTED BY REPORTS FROM PAP CORRESPONDENTS OF AMERICAN PRESS REACTION. END SUMMARY.

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2. TRYBUNA LUDU OF APRIL 1 REPORTS THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES CONCLUDED MANY "CONCRETE UNDERSTANDINGS" CONCERNING "PRACTICAL PROBLEMS OF BILATERAL RELATIONS" AND THAT BOTH SIDES AGREED TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS ON THE CENTRAL ISSUE OF ACHIEVING A NEW AGREEMENT LIMITING NUCLEAR ARMS. THE SAME EDITION OF TRYBUNA LUDU CARRIES FULL COVERAGE OF GROMYKO'S PRESS CONFERENCE

IN MOSCOW, AS WELL AS AN EDITORIAL CRITICIZING WHAT IT TERMS THE "ASTOUNDING AND SOMETIMES OUTRIGHT FALSE" CONCLUSIONS ABOUT THE TALKS PRESENTED IN THE WESTERN PRESS. THE EDITORIAL BEGINS BY QUOTING GROMYKO'S STATEMENT THAT THE RECENT US-SOVIET TALKS WERE "INDISPENSABLE AND EVEN POSITIVE" AND CONCLUDED THAT "THE USSR, DEMANDING POLICIES BASED ON FACTS DOES NOT CLOSE THE DOOR ON ANY FURTHER REALISTIC EFFORTS AT DISCUSSION AND UNDERSTANDING."

3. IN AN ARTICLE ENTITLED "THE OBJECTIVE NECESSITY FOR DETENTE AND DISARMAMENT", TRYBUNA LUDU OF APRIL 2-3 REPORTS TASS COMMENTARY THAT THE AMERICAN APPROACH TO DISARMAMENT WOULD GIVE THE UNITED STATES UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE. PAP WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT STANISLAW GLABINSKI QUOTES EXCERPTS FROM AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS AND CONTENTS THAT AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION WAS "ALARMED AND DISORIENTED" BY THE ADMINISTRATION'S CONTROVERSIAL FOREIGN-POLICY TACTICS. MACIEJ SLOTWINSKI, WRITING IN ZYCIE WARSZAWY OF APRIL 2-3, QUOTES AN ADMONITION IN A CBS COMMENTARY TO THE EFFECT THAT THE AMERICAN PUBLIC SHOULD NOT BECOME DISHEARTENED BY THE LACK OF PROGRESS IN MOSCOW. SLOTWINSKI CRITICIZES WHAT HE CALLS SIGNS OF A "HARD LINE" TOWARD THE SOVIET UNION: THE SUGGESTION THAT AMERICAN CREDITS BE TIED TO PROGRESS IN THE ARMS-LIMITATION TALKS; PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENTS THAT WEAPONS RESEARCH WOULD CONTINUE IF PROGRESS IN THE SALT TALKS WERE NOT ACHIEVED, AND THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT SECRETARY VANCE PLANNED A TRIP TO CHINA.

4. TRYBUNA LUDU OF APRIL 4 QUOTES PRAVDA AND TASS IN TWO ARTICLES WHICH CRITICIZE RECENT STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT CARTER, SECRETARY VANCE, AND ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI AS EFFORTS TO "WHITEWASH" THE AMERICAN POSITION IN MOSCOW.

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5. COMMENT: POLISH PRESS CRITICISM OF THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSALS IN MOSCOW IS BASICALLY DEFENSIVE. AS THE TRYBUNA LUDU EDITORIAL FRANKLY STATES, HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE WESTERN PRESS, "IT WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE TO BE CONTENT WITH THE STATEMENTS OF THE OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE." THE POLISH PRESS IS FOLLOWING THE SOVIET LEAD OF REACTING TO ADMINISTRATION STATEMENTS WITH COUNTER-CRITICISM. OPTIMISM OVER CONTINUED DISCUSSIONS IS CAREFULLY REGISTERED AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, AND THE OVERALL EVALUATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE DISCUSSIONS IN MOSCOW IS POSITIVE. END COMMENT.

DAVIES

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Message Attributes

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